WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL INVENTORY

COUNTY: York

CLASS : Legend

--- OLD LEGEND ---

This write-up is a part of the Virginia W. P. A. Historical Inventory Project sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History. Credit to both the Commission and W. P. A. is requested for publication, in whole or in part. Unless otherwise stated, this information has not been checked for accuracy by the sponsor.

Research made by
Carrie Roberts Hawkins
Messick, Virginia.

February 7, 1936

1. SUBJECT:

Old Legend

2. LOCATION:

On Messick Point (Back River) about one fourth of a mile from a county store (Key's store).

3. DATE:

1864.

4. OWNERS:

5. DESCRIPTION:

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

In the year 1864, two or three families of children were left at the old Messick Home (the home belonged to Mr. John Messick) by their parents one night while they went to a corn shucking in the community. While the children were there that night they heard a knocking on the house, a light knocking at first, but it kept getting louder; this knocking continued night after night but not at the same house. It followed two girls of a Page family, Dollie and Sarah Page, who were at the Messick home the first night that the knocking occurred. Wherever they were at night the knocking would begin after all the lights were turned out. People came from miles around to wherever these two girls were to hear this strange knocking. The girls would put Bibles under their head and when the light was turned out something would throw the bible across the room, one night something platted their hair together, and another night it scratched their faces, none of this ever happened unless the light was turned out (it always happened at night). Some folks believed that it was their mother haunting them because one day she went out in the marsh at the head of a cove at Messick Point to look for a cow and wanted one of the girls (Dollie) to go with her but she didn't go, and the woman was found the next day in a thicket dead. But others said that the two girls were knocking and throwing bibles and the like to attract attention, because it never happened unless they were in the dark. The house has been torn down and other buildings have been placed on the tract of land.

7. ART:

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informant: Mrs. R. T. Hawkins.